



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**December 15, 2005**

**For immediate release**

- 1. Commercial manure applicator training offered Jan. 6**
- 2. Spring Lake residents asked for input on water quality improvement plan**

## **COMMERCIAL MANURE APPLICATOR TRAINING OFFERED JANUARY 6**

DES MOINES – Approximately 1200 commercial manure applicators should plan to attend a training session offered in many local Extension offices on Jan. 6 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sign-ins begin at 8:30 a.m.

Iowa State University Extension offers the training via live satellite downlink sessions. The three hours of training fulfill the requirement for commercial manure applicators to become certified as required by law.

Applicators should pre-register for the training session with one of the 80 participating local Extension offices.

Those who attend will be able to ask questions of each of the trainers. Topics offered this year include state regulations for manure application, including recordkeeping requirements; land application issues including soil properties; the economics of manure transportation; and biosecurity for applicators.

Currently certified manure applicators and managers must attend a training session or pass a test before their certificate expires on March 1.

Testing sessions are offered by the DNR during January and February. Please pre-register with a DNR field office to ensure an available spot.

Once the training requirement is fulfilled, forms and fees, including an annual business license fee, are due on or before March 1. A late fee applies to renewals submitted after March 1.

For more information and a list of training and testing locations, check the Extension Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html>. More information on requirements for applicators can be found on the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/appcert.html>.

Additional training sessions designed for dry manure applicators will be offered in February. Contact Angie Rieck-Hinz at (515) 294-9590 for information about these sessions.

**For more information, contact Jeff Prier at (712) 262-4177.**

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## **SPRING LAKE RESIDENTS ASKED FOR INPUT ON WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

JEFFERSON — Plans for improving water quality at Spring Lake in Greene County will be presented at a public meeting Dec. 20. The draft plan will be discussed at the Depot, located at 509 East Lincoln Way in Jefferson, at 1:00 p.m.

The draft plan, also known as a TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load, has been developed for Spring Lake. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain water quality standards.

TMDLs also include plans on how water quality can be improved through conservation efforts in the watershed, or the surrounding area that drains into the lake. After receiving public comments, the TMDL will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The water quality problems at Spring Lake are related to high levels of turbidity, or cloudy water. These high turbidity levels are the result of sediment suspended in the water, which originates primarily from within Spring Lake, but also from the Spring Lake watershed. High levels of turbidity make the lake aesthetically objectionable and less desirable for uses like swimming, but do not pose a specific human health threat.

Comments on the draft plan will be received through Jan. 13. Copies of the draft plan are available from the following sources, which can also be used to submit comments:

- Internet: [www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html)
- E-mail [chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us)

- Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791
- Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.**